

REMARKS

Upon entry of the forgoing amendments, claims 1-27 are pending in this application with claims 1, 14, and 15 being independent claims. No claim is allowed.

Claims 1, 14, and 15 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. The text of claims 2-13 and 16-27 is unchanged, but their meaning is changed because they depend from amended claims.

The 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103 Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by *Friddell* (US 4,974,347). Claims 4-13 and 18-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over *Friddell*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Generally, the Office Action states that *Friddell* discloses or suggests all of the claim elements and limitations. However, the independent claims have been clarified to accentuate a substantial difference between the claims and the cited prior art.

The system as disclosed by *Friddell* operates on two forms of scattered x-ray radiation. First, there is radiation that is scattered directly by the object 16 of FIG. 1. Second, there is radiation that passes through the object 16 first and is then scattered by the illuminator 32 of FIG. 1. (See col. 7, lines 15-23, among others.) In order to be detected, this second radiation passes through the object 16 twice, that is, once in both directions (Col. 6, lines 16-18).

By contrast, the presently claimed invention operates on different forms of scattered radiation. First, there is radiation 16 that is scattered directly by the object 12 of FIG. 4. Second, there is radiation that is scattered directly by the panel 400 of FIG. 4. (See FIGs. 4-6 and paragraph 00018, among others.) Further, unlike *Friddell*, there is essentially no through radiation to be detected as the object 12 and concealed items (metal bars 504, 506, 604, and 606

in FIGs. 5 and 6) block the transmission of substantially all radiation. Given these differences, *Friddell* can not be said to anticipate or render obvious the present claims.

In view of the above, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Request for Allowance

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and an early allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

If any matters remain which could be resolved in a telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to expedite resolution of any such matters.

It is believed that no fee is required for filing the above-referenced documents. In the event that any additional fee is required, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, and credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1698. A duplicate of this page is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
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